

## Grass Lawn Neighborhood Plan Alternatives and Preliminary Recommendations

### On-Going Neighborhood – Redmond Government Communication

<b>Issue:</b>	<p>A. What should the future role of the Committee be after a final recommendation is made to the Planning Commission?</p> <p>B. How can better communications be made between the Grass Lawn neighborhood and Redmond government?</p>
<b>Background/Description:</b>	<p>Since its inception in April 2003, Citizens Committee members have represented Grass Lawn neighbors from all areas of the neighborhood. The Committee has made preliminary recommendations for the neighborhood plan and sought input from their neighbors on how they want the neighborhood to look and feel in the future. In December the Committee will hold a neighborhood wide meeting to discuss the plan recommendations in an additional effort to seek input on the plan from other neighborhood residents.</p> <p>The Committee is expected to make their recommendations to the Planning Commission in January 2004. As the Committee enters this next phase, it is important to clarify that Committee members should act as advocates for their recommendations to the Planning Commission. As advocates for all of your hard work and thoughtful planning, it will be important for some of the members to be present at Planning Commission and City Council hearing(s). Planning Commissioners and City Council members are anticipating your plan, and will be very interested in discussing it with you.</p> <p>After adoption of the plan by the City Council, the Committee should consider meeting on a periodic or as needed basis to coordinate representation of the neighborhood's interests for neighborhood improvements during the budget process. The Committee should also be a starting place for contact with City staff when the neighborhood has projects, concerns and other opportunities they'd like to pursue with City assistance. The Committee should consider meeting one year after implementation of the plan to "check-in" and see how implementation is going.</p> <p>The Committee should also recommend an alternative means of monitoring the plan and maintaining connections between the parts of the neighborhood and between the neighborhood and the City.</p> <p>In addition to the Committee's recommendations, throughout this process, there have been valuable suggestions and discoveries of how Redmond government can be better connected to the residents and businesses of the neighborhood. <a href="#">The following have or should be implemented in an effort to achieve better connections.</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Web site</a> for the neighborhood plan update. In addition to providing Committee recommendations and opportunity for comment, the site could be used as a vehicle for neighborhood involvement among the residents and businesses as well as interaction with City staff.</li> <li>• The neighborhood's <a href="#">enhancement team</a>, which consists of staff from various departments, (including parks, engineering, public works, transportation, and police) has been working to develop stronger connections with the neighborhood and enhancement of delivery of city services through a coordinated effort. The purpose of the enhancement team is to complete the neighborhood plan update; work with the neighborhood to help solve neighborhood problems, and remain active after the plan is updated to help ensure that the interests of the City as well as people who live and work in the neighborhood are met. The team is also a liaison between City divisions, departments and Grass Lawn neighborhood residents.</li> <li>• The Committee has recommended formation of block watches as a means to help keep the neighborhood safe and have fast connections with City police.</li> <li>• There has been support for better pedestrian connections between subdivisions in the neighborhood and connections to Grass Lawn Park, a community and neighborhood gathering place. Improved pedestrian connections will allow residents to better connect with each other as well as City services and amenities.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternatives:</b>	<p><b>Short-Term</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CAC members could testify and/or provide written comments at Planning Commission and City Council meetings regarding the proposed neighborhood plan.</li> <li>2. The Committee could continue to meet on a periodic bases during Planning Commission and/or City Council review of the neighborhood plan</li> <li>3. The Committee could meet one year after adoption of the plan to evaluate its implementation and any required changes.</li> </ol> <p><b>Long-Term</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4a. The Committee could continue to meet on a periodic or as needed bases to organize support for projects, concerns or opportunities in the neighborhood that could benefit form City funding or participation. Depending on City resources, the neighborhood's web site could be used to support better communication between the City and the neighborhood.</li> <li>4b. The Committee could choose a committee member to act as a liaison</li> </ol>

	<p>between the neighborhood and City staff for future updates to the neighborhood plan, to organize support for projects, concerns, or opportunities in the neighborhood that could benefit from City funding or participation.</p> <p>5. The City and a representative neighborhood group could hold neighborhood meetings on an annual basis jointly with and for neighborhood residents, business owners, and those who work in the neighborhood to evaluate the neighborhood plan and any needed changes.</p> <p>6. The Committee should encourage formation of a neighborhood association to better communicate with the City, work together on community issues, and comment on the success of the plan implementation and needed changes. This could occur now, or in the future as the neighborhood group evolves. The City of Kirkland has several neighborhood associations.</p> <p>7. Other ideas for better communications between the neighborhood and businesses and Redmond government?</p>
<b>Preliminary Staff Recommendation:</b>	<p><u>The staff recommends short-term alternatives 1, 2, and 3. It will be very beneficial for the Committee to demonstrate what they have achieved through their dedication and thoughtful work on the plan to the Planning Commission and City Council. Also, the neighborhood could see great benefit from a check-in meeting one year after adoption of the plan to monitor its implementation. Staff recognizes that Committee members are busy with personal and business obligations. However, it would be advantageous to maintain contact with City staff at some level as the neighborhood plan is implemented. Any of the long-term alternatives could be beneficial for the neighborhood. However, alternatives 4a, 4b, 5, and 6 are recommended by staff as the most effective ways to have on-going communication between the City and neighborhood.</u></p>